

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

The Content producers cannot conceive of all legitimate copying possibilities in advance. The appropriate way to deal with this is to restrict citizens AFTER it is shown that a use is inappropriate, not to try and guess BEFORE hand. This is similar to any taking of rights or property.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? It is especially true that Content producers cannot conceive of all legitimate networked uses in a person's home. The entire PC industry grew out of people building computers out of parts or kits. A Broadcast flag really implies that a person would be excluded from DTV hobbies.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

People who make computers and DTV their hobbies as well as older consumers who don't wish to throw out still useful equipment would find themselves very pinched by this sort of thing.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Entire industries have grown up where citizens explored possibilities that existing commercial entities found too little ROI or where they saw nothing at all. A broadcast flag, in essence, limits the future to existing commercial entities' vision. This will be a horrible fate for us all.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

Short term there is the cost of a new, government mandated technology in new equipment and the large cost associated with replacing useable but no longer useful equipment. By limiting the ways citizens can explore new applications and technologies the long term expectaion is for stagnation and increased costs of consumer electronics equipment.

Other Comments:

Any changes that affect "digital rights management" including the so called broadcast flag need much more citizen input. The Content industry naturally wants all the advantages it can get, but those need to be more carefully balanced with citizen interests.